

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Claims 1–5 (Canceled).

1 6 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according
2 to claim 9 †, further comprising an authorization data writing section
3 which writes said authorization data within a header information section of
4 said digital audio data.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

1 8 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according
2 to claim † 9 wherein said interfaces of said general-purpose interface
3 circuit section are selected from the group consisting of USB, IEEE1394,
4 wireless LAN, and home RF.

1 9 (Currently Amended). A playback /recording method of digital audio
2 data using an audio playback/recording apparatus having a
3 playback/recording processing section, an audio output processing section,
4 an external recording circuit section, a general-purpose interface circuit
5 section, a protection processing section, a ROM, a RAM, and an expanded
6 RAM, said method comprising:
7 A) in a case in which input data input to the audio
8 playback/recording apparatus are playbacked played back and recorded on
9 an external recording medium,

10 said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from
11 an input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog audio data to
12 digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the audio output
13 processing section and playback/recording processing section,

14 said audio output processing section converts said received digital
15 audio data to analog audio data and ~~playbacks~~ plays back said converted
16 analog audio data,

17 said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital
18 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and
19 after said audio output processing section ~~playbacks~~ plays back said
20 digital audio data, said external recording circuit section records
21 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an external
22 recording medium;

23 B) in a case in which input data input to the audio
24 playback/recording apparatus are recorded on an external recording
25 medium,

26 said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from
27 an input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog data audio
28 data to digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the
29 playback/recording processing section,

30 said play back/recording processing section compresses said digital
31 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and
32 said external recording circuit section records compressed digital
33 audiodata stored in said RAM on the external recording medium;

34 C) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording
35 medium are ~~playbacked~~ played back,

36 said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital
37 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout
38 data into said RAM,

39 said playback/recording processing section decompresses said
40 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, and

41 said audio output processing section converts said decompressed
42 digital audio data to analog audio data and outputs said converted analog
43 data to an output apparatus and ~~playbacks~~ plays back said analog audio
44 data;

45 D) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording
46 medium are transferred to an external apparatus,

47 said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital
48 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout
49 data into said RAM,

50 said protection processing section generates authorization data
51 including an individual identifier and ~~a decryption~~ an encryption key so as
52 to encrypt data and encrypts said compressed digital audio data stored in
53 said RAM, said general-purpose interface circuit section outputs said
54 authorization data to said external apparatus, after that, outputs encrypted
55 compressed digital audio data to said external apparatus; and

56 E) in a case in which input data received from an external apparatus
57 are recorded on an external recording medium,

58 said general-purpose interface circuit section receives authorization
59 data including a decryption key from the external apparatus,

60 said protection processing section compares said individual
61 identifier included in said authorization data from the external apparatus
62 with an individual identifier list stored in the ROM and checks a
63 properness of a transmitting party,

64 said general-purpose interface circuit section receives encrypted
65 compressed digital audio data from the external apparatus and stores them
66 in the RAM,

67 said protection processing section decrypts encrypted compressed
68 digital audio data stored in the RAM by using the decryption key included
69 in the authorization data, and

70 said external recording circuit section records the compressed
71 digital audio data stored in the RAM into the external recording medium.